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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number 09/829,915

Filing Date April 11, 2001

First Named Inventor Masami TSUKAMOTO

Group Art Unit 2877

Examiner Name K. Brown

Attorney Docket Number 00684.003179

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. Previously submitted

- i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____.
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____.
- iii. Other _____

b. Enclosed

- i. Preliminary Amendment
- ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. Other: _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205

- i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. Other _____

b. A check in the amount of \$750.00 is enclosed to cover the RCE filing fee.

c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

Match and Return

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Steven E. Warner	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	33,326
Signature		Date	September 4, 2003

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND FEES and Completed Forms to the following address: Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

Form #161
09/05/2003 JBLINAH 00000073 061205 09829915

09/05/2003 750.00 DA
09/05/2003 SVIKETA1

Adjustment date: 10/07/2003 SVIKETA1
09/05/2003 JBLINAH 00000073 061205 09829915
01 FC:1801 750.00 CR

09/05/2003 JBLINAH 00000073 09829915

01 FC:1801 750.00 DA

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Patent & Trademark Office
Application of:

Masami TSUKAMOTO

Application No.: 09/829,915

Filed: April 11, 2001

For: CONTAMINATION PREVENTION
IN OPTICAL SYSTEM

Examiner: K. Brown

Group Art Unit: 2877

Allowed: June 4, 2003

Confirmation No.: 8192

September 4, 2003

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified application.

No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

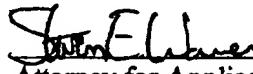
CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	36	MINUS	44	= 0	x \$9 \$18	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	3	MINUS	3	= 0	x \$42 \$84	\$0.00
Fee for Multiple Dependent claims \$140/\$280						\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$0.00



°Verified Statement claiming small entity status is enclosed, if not filed previously.

- A check in the amount of \$____ is enclosed.
- Charge \$____ to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.
- Any prior general authorization to charge an issue fee under 37 CFR 1.18 to Deposit Account No. 06-1205 is hereby revoked. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$____ to cover the fee for a two month extension is enclosed.
- A check in the amount of \$____ to cover the Information Disclosure Statement fee is enclosed.
- Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

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SEW/eab

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00684.003179.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Masami TSUKAMOTO

Application No.: 09/829,915

Filed: April 11, 2001

For: CONTAMINATION PREVENTION
IN OPTICAL SYSTEM

) Examiner: K. Brown
Group Art Unit: 2877
Allowed: June 4, 2003
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to further examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application
as follows: